

For immediate release
February 15, 2005

USIBWC CONDUCTS PUBLIC MEETING FEBRUARY 28 IN BISBEE

The Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum (SACF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) will conduct a public meeting on Monday, February 28 in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room at the Cochise County Complex, 1415 W. Melody Lane, Building G in Bisbee. The event is free and the public is encouraged to attend. The purpose of the forum is to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, Arizona.

City of Bisbee Public Works Director Russell McConnell will give an update on the city's wastewater improvement project. The \$30 million project, mandated by a consent order authored by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, is funded by local, state, and federal sources. The contract has been awarded for the rehabilitation of over 100,000 linear feet of sewer lines, the installation of 30,000 linear feet of new line, and construction of a lift station and treatment facility. Actual construction began in mid-December and five crews are currently working on pipeline installation. Construction on the treatment plant and lift station will begin soon.

Mary Hershendorfer, Program Associate with Proyecto Corredor Colibri, will give a presentation, "Community-based Conservation in the Upper San Pedro Watershed, Sonora." Proyecto Corredor Colibri (PCC) is a binational, collaborative project involving natural and cultural resource conservation working directly with communities located in the Mexican portion of the Upper San Pedro watershed. Activities include ecological restoration, environmental education and outreach, research and monitoring, and economic diversification. For the past four years, the project has been working with landowners, teachers, and community leaders on a variety of conservation projects, with a particular focus on bird and bird habitat

conservation. This presentation will focus on PCC's innovative approaches to conservation and work with landowners at Villa Verde and Los Campitos, two sites in the Mexican portion of the watershed.

In addition, Jacque Zamora of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will give a presentation about the Agua Prieta-Douglas Watershed Study Group. This international collaboration involves the NRCS, Southwest Strategy, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the City of Agua Prieta, Sonora. The goal of the group is to address some of the flooding concerns around Agua Prieta, concentrating on the area to the east of the city. The USDA is addressing concerns north of the border and informally consulting on the Mexican side of the border. The aim is to reduce the socio-economic impacts to the community and address health concerns caused by this flooding.

The SACF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the public, environmentalists, government agencies, municipalities, and other interested parties. SACF board members represent a variety of interests in the region.

A complete meeting agenda appears below. Members of the public who would like more information can call the USIBWC's Nogales Projects Office at 520-281-1832 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov.

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS' FORUM

Monday, February 28, 2005

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
Cochise County Complex, Building G
1415 W. Melody Ln. (off Hwy. 92)
Bisbee, AZ

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions--Ben Lomeli, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Community-based Conservation in the Upper San Pedro Watershed, Sonora -- Mary Hershdorfer, Program Associate, Proyecto Corredor Colibri
- Agua Prieta-Douglas Watershed Study -- Jacque Zamora, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Progress of the City of Bisbee Wastewater Improvement Project -- Russell McConnell, Public Works Director, City of Bisbee
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion

Note: The next Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum meeting will be May 23 in Santa Cruz County.

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 520-281-1832 or e-mail sallyspener@ibwc.state.gov